

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet make changes to Fig 1. and replace the original sheet with Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and drawings, and claims 1 and 6 are amended and claim 2 is canceled.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 16 and 17 are allowed and that claims 2, 6, 11 and 15 contain allowable subject matter.

I. The Drawings Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Figure 1 is corrected to obviate this objection.

II. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification is amended to obviate this objection.

III. Claim 9 Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claim 9. This rejection is respectfully traversed. A filler having a layered structure is defined in the specification at page 13, line 22 et seq. Specifically, a lubricative filler with a lamellar structure made of, for example, molybdenum disulfide, hexagonal boron nitride, mica, graphite, tungsten disulfide and talk (talc).

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,359,963 to Saito et al. ("Saito"), claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,486,441 to Chen et al. ("Chen"), claims 1, 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,518,737 to Traut, and claims 1, 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Saito or Chen.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject of claim 2, previously indicated as allowable. Thus, these rejections are moot.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MQB/ale

Attachment:
Replacement Sheet

Date: October 26, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--



Figure 1

